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S C H E M E S

OFFERED FOR THE
PERUSAL AND CONSIDERATION
OF THE
LEGISLATURE,
FREEHOLDERS, AND PUBLIC IN GENERAL:

SHEWING

The many EVILS that might be prevented,
AND THE GOOD THAT WOULD ACCRUE TO THE PUBLIC,
Were they Improved, and Enacted into LAWS.

By C. VARLO, Esq;

L O N D O N:

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A C A R D.

THE Author of the New System of Husbandry presents his Compliments to the Editors of the Monthly Review for *January* 1775, and observes, that they have laboriously traced his Work through, Chapter by Chapter, and is much obliged to them for the sensible and impartial Remarks they have made thereon, though at the Conclusion, he has not entirely escaped the Lash of their Pen. However, this Chastisement he bears with Pleasure, and has taken their friendly Advice, for he lays himself open to conviction, upon perusing his Work before put to press for a fifth Edition; and he stands convicted that it contained a Number of superfluous Words, which few Authors can themselves correct. He is also very happy to find that the Essence or Spirit of the Work, has in general merited their Approbation, and more particularly so, as it happens to be upon a Subject, that the Success of which may in some Degree affect every Individual, though not so sensibly, as to be immediately felt; likewise, as he is an entire Stranger to them, and they to him, together with the impartial and honest Observations they have made on both Sides the Question, he is convinced, that though anonymous Writers, they may give honest Sentiments without Fee or Reward, when criticising upon another Work, as well as they have done upon his.

P R E F A C E.

OUR great Creator for good and wise purposes, has diversified human nature with as many degrees of understanding, as there are external shapes in the body, and linked us so together, that we cannot live without the assistance of each other.

The political government is as much dependent upon the mechanical artist or day labourer, for a subsistence, as the latter are to them, for any judgmatical laws they may enact, for regulating the multitude of individuals under their care.

The political system may be compared to the movement of a watch, the legislative power the main spring; should they enact such laws as are oppressive; or, on the other hand, omit those that would be useful to community; if enacted it would cause such a contrast in nature, as would disorder the whole system.

Though, I doubt not but the political abilities of our legislature are adequate to that of any other body of men in the known world; yet experimental knowledge, acquired by industry and attention to business, is very often wanted to plan useful laws.

It matters not from what fountain useful knowledge arise, whether from a yeoman, churchman, or a court politician; they ought for conscience sake, to be taken notice of, encouraged

raged, and enacted according to their merit, as much as if they rose from the first minister of state ; and as I think it a duty incumbent upon every individual, to communicate to the public, any useful thoughts that may arise, I flatter myself, I stand excused for drawing up and publishing the following schemes ; and though they may not all meet with a general approbation, yet I trust, they will be approved of by the unprejudiced sensible part of mankind.

A hint to the wise is sufficient ; therefore it is enough to say, that the following Schemes are only meant as outlines, or hints to be improved upon. It would swell this work beyond the bounds intended, was I to enlarge upon the merits of every scheme, or lay down every necessary clause,

clause, binding to an enacted law ; this I leave to the correcting pens of those who are judges in such matters, and doubt not but they will improve upon the hints, and cloath them out to the best advantage ; it will also be a meritorious act, and reflect honour upon every voice and pen, that assists in bringing them to maturity for the public utility ; and likewise merit the thanks of the author, who has spared no pains in giving them birth, though he expects no other advantage therefrom, than what may flow to every individual, by wholesome and constitutional laws being enacted.

C O N-



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POLITICAL SCHEMES.

C H A P I.

To the FREEHOLDERS of ENGLAND.

G E N T L E M E N,

TH E schemes in the following sheets are humbly offered for your perusal, as the first principles of their efficacy, if put in execution; for though the legislature is the executive body to enact laws, you are the electors of that body; therefore, should your choice fall upon unwor-

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thy gentlemen, deficient in abilities, and, in other respects, unfit for the important feat they are to fill, the fault is yours, as you must run into such errors with your eyes open ; because, every gentleman, qualified to sit in the House of Commons, ought to be a man of eminence, whom the eyes of the world are upon ; common fame generally points out his worth and abilities ; therefore, such a one cannot, or at least ought not, to be a stranger to his neighbouring freeholders, whom he is to represent ; and if you chuse a stranger, who acts not up to your wish and expectations, you are inexcusable.

It is natural for masters or employers, through all stages in life, to be well acquainted with the talents or abilities of those whom they employ,
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whether they are qualified or not for the trust and confidence reposed in them.

Then certainly you, the Freeholders of England, who have the chusing of the legislature, a power superior to all others, ought to be very circumspect whom you admit into that high office, as the happiness or misery of such a multitude of people depends upon the laws they are to enact; therefore, their abilities, experience, and past conduct, ought to be strictly enquired into.

Pardon me if I point out, what, perhaps, might please you, should such fall to your lot. He that is trusted with the affairs of the nation, ought to be every thing that is great and good; he should have an honest heart, sound judgment, a noble spirit,

4 P O L I T I C A L

and be a lover of his King and country ; neither should he be a stranger to his own country, as is too often the case with gentlemen who travel abroad ; who, being asked about the constitution or commerce thereof, can scarcely give a rational answer.

If a gentlemen has his country's good at heart, and would wish to serve it from laudable and generous principles, he should travel through it, at least three or four years, and be very particular in his remarks and observations, in order to gain experience to enable him to plan constitutional laws.

Add to this, he should have the patience of Job, to hear all debates ; the wisdom of Solomon, to judge of them, the resolution of St. Paul, to plead in their behalf, and dare to be

be honest, in the worst of times, to his King and country.

Let me, therefore, advise the constituents to consider well the abilities of those who represent them; not to be led away or biased in their opinions, by pomp, show, bribery, or fine words. It is mean, and below the noble spirit of an Englishman, to be led by the nose like a bear, or enticed and deluded by the chink of a purse, as a hog would be by the rattle of pease.

Scorn to take a bribe; let all the world see, that you, as Englishmen, are endued with a more generous and open soul, than to sell your freedom, and debase your understanding, even for a dinner or a treat: Be not like Esau, who sold his birth-right for a mess of pottage.

What

6 P O L I T I C A L

What man of spirit or generosity would lay under an obligation to a gentleman for a paltry treat? and he that takes a bribe, is a villain to his country.

There are few men who are qualified to give a vote at an election, who are not also able to treat themselves; and consider, that a thing of the sort is scarce felt when it is divided among a great many; but being added, and paid for by one, is too heavy a burthen for him to bear, though a gentleman.

Let it be also understood by every one, that he who buys a man will sell him; nay, he has a right so to do; for what he buys, is his own, both by law and equity.

If you *give* him your vote and interest, you then lay *him* under an obli-

obligation ; he would then serve you from a fellow feeling ; it would be the greatest of sins, that of ingratitude, to deceive you ; he would make your interest his own, and give his voice to enact every useful law for your interest.

But how, in the name of wonder, can you expect it from a gentleman, who has spent, perhaps, from one, to twenty thousand pounds, for a seat ? The immense expence and trouble he is at, thwarts and fours his temper ; and, perhaps, out of revenge, and even contrary to his own judgement, he will give a casting voice against what might be of public use if enacted : I have known things of the sort.

In short, a man who has spent a great part of his fortune to gain a seat, will take long strides to retrieve it ;
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and, in his own mind, stands self-excused, for any unconstitutional steps he may take for so doing.

Self interest is a prevailing argument, and may often whisper things to quiet a man's conscience, which he thinks himself not accountable for to the world.

There are two sorts of men, who, though not proper for a seat in the house, yet generally strive to get in it; one for self interest, and the other for ostentatious pride.

The former spends, or rather wears his money well; for, by procuring a seat, he, at the same time, has an eye upon some advantageous place; therefore all his pretended zeal is self-interest.

The latter bustles and sticks hard for a seat, and talks of what great feats
he

he can perform, if you chuse him your representative; perhaps all his pretended zeal is pride; it has become a great thing to be a parliament man, and he will be that great man, cost what it will; he will not be outdone by any one; he has money enough, and sure that is sufficient to make any man great, let his other accomplishments be what they will.

But do you think so, my experienced readers? no, certainly: you know better; you are sensible that greatness originates from true manly wisdom; and this is acquired only by dint of industry, and close application to business and study.

Though a man with a large fortune may be born with natural mother wit, yet it takes a great deal to make
C him

him what we may call, a clever, sensible, great, man.

His large estate, in some degree, is a bar to those acquirements, as he rests secure in his independent fortune.

What little time there is to spare, in his youth, from the gay pleasures of a crouded world, is little enough for the first rudiments of education ; when he arrives at manhood, he is immediately sent abroad to finish it, by travels into foreign countries, in which he seldom learns any thing that is of real service to himself, as a parliament man ; though at his return, he is immediately ushered into the house, without his constituents having any real knowledge of his experimental abilities ; indeed, experience he cannot have, particularly of his own country, where it is most wanted.

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S C H E M E S. II

I have no party views, but wish well to all men ; and though such, as above, may be very worthy, so far as their knowledge leads, yet the odds are greatly against them ; for, suppose a man's natural parts be as great as his fortune, reason tells us, that it is experience which begets wisdom, and that is not acquired without great industry, and application to business : The more troubles and hardships a man wades through in the journey of life, the more valuable is his experience.

It is the sharp thorn of necessity, that spurs on the mind, and puts ingenuity to the rack ; and, as it were, forces out those seeds of invention, which might lie hid in one, who glides smoothly and securely through an uninterrupted course of life, which

is the effect of an independent fortune.

It requires little ingenuity for a gentleman to spend a fortune; any fool can do that; but he is a clever fellow that can make one, out of little or nothing to begin with.

The man who is proper to be at the head of affairs, in a mercantile country, is he, who, by the dint of ingenuity and industry, has made his own fortune; who has ransacked every corner of the kingdom for materials to build it upon; and whose business has thrown him into different companies, where various conversations may be heard, which open the ideas, and ripen the understanding.

Man, in his natural state, is a very unpolished, rude, uncouth, creature; the soul is implanted in him for noble

ble and wise ends ; but it is confined from spreading, sprouting, or growing up to maturity, as the seed in dry barren land, and makes little progress to improvement, till cultivated by art.

Necessity begets industry ; industry ingenuity ; and ingenuity begets experience and wealth ; but, as before observed, a man born with a fortune, is in some degree, exempted from these valuables ; as he has the chief spring to action, namely money, provided to his hands.

At the first institution of parliaments, the members were paid a certain sum, or modus per day, by the boroughs or counties they represented, for doing their constituents business. Pickering, in Yorkshire, was formerly a borough town, and sent
two

members to parliament, but lost their charter, because they could not afford to pay them each a noble per day; a sum allowed by charter, as a consideration for the members transacting their business.

This shews a strange alteration between times in the purity of the primitive age, and those in which we now live.

In the former, members were paid for doing the public's business, which had some meaning in it; but now they pay severely for being admitted servants to the public, which would puzzle a conjuror to know the meaning of.

It astonishes me greatly, to think how it is possible for such a body as that of the legislature to overlook so many useful laws, as might be enacted

enacted for public utility ; that some one or other of them should not find them out, or should stumble over every thing that is valuable : but it verifies the old saying ; what is every one's business, is no one's.

I hope every one who reads the schemes contained in the following sheets, will give all the assistance, in their power, towards procuring all, or so many of them enacted, as reason points out to be useful ; and I flatter myself, they will be really so, more particularly, as I am strengthened in my opinion by worthy gentlemen of consequence and precision, who have read them in manuscript, and much approved of them ; and therefore advised me to print them, for public perusal, that every one might
lend

lend their voice, where reason pointed the way.

It was this alone that induced me to make public, what, I am sensible, can be of little consequence to myself as an author, being unconnected with all booksellers; therefore, the sale can be but small; and, being so low a priced book, it cannot pay for the trouble and expence of printing; consequently, my private view is for the public good, who, as an individual, hope to reap a share of any utility that may arise therefrom.

It is not to be expected that the following schemes, in their present dress, stand correct, or are a true plan of what they should be, were they enacted into laws: no; they
are

they are only meant as hints or outlines, to put the legislature in mind, that, if they think them worth their notice, they may make such alterations or deductions, as, in their wiser judgement they may think proper.

It is the height of my ambition that they take notice of my hints, and pick and cull the gold from the dross; for, suppose a few, out of a many individuals, to be bettered by them, it will be a matter of high payment and gratification to one, who has spared no pains or expence to be useful to the public.

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C H A P II.

Natural Causes produce Natural Effects.

TH E high price that provisions are risen to, is become the general complaint of the populace; many seem to be discontented and murmur both against the state and providence.

But would they consider the natural cause thereof, instead of this discontentment that seems to appear among them, they would thank providence for the happy effects of what they call dearness of provisions; to
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an unthinking reader, this may seem a paradox, and, were I to stop here, he might suspect me weak in my intellects; but every one has his own ideas of things; and mine are, that provisions are not dear, but that it is money that is cheap; that in fact provisions are as plentiful now as they ever were, nay, more so, even than they were a thousand years ago, when wheat was one penny a peck, or beef one farthing a pound; this must appear clear to any one that considers the the nature of things, as natural causes produce natural effects.

Did I say that we might thank providence for the rise of provisions? certainly; so we may; if we desire the commerce of the kingdom to flourish, we desire what are called, and what really are, bodily riches, such as gold,
silver,

silver, diamonds, or rich stones, lace, or fine cloaths, to adorn the external parts of the body.

Some indeed, may call this pride, and think such gaudy baubles not worth contending for, or taking any pains about ; but I am quite of another way of thinking : I believe them to be very useful, and also pride to be the most noble valuable passion that belongs to the human species.

It is true, gold, and all such glittering articles are (as nourishment to the body) of no use ; therefore, were we no better than hogs, they would be thrown away upon us ; but those that despise them most, and decorate the body least, are the smallest degree from the brute creation ; every thing we search after, more than bodily nourishment, are the evident marks
which

which prove man to be a rational being, and the most noble of all creatures : man's pursuit after such gaieties as these, shews that he has more lofty calls or ideas than mere instinct of nature, which prompts the brute creation to satisfy hunger, but no farther. The busy mind very often searches after things she knows not of, till an idea opens, and then a treasure appears, which unfolds the understanding, and leads us on, step by step, to search after wisdom, by contemplating the wonderful cause thereof; these open ideas are delights to a philosophical head, that an uncultivated one is a stranger to.

It is such aspiring faculties as these that distinguish man from the brute creation; idea opens after idea, till they fill the head with fancies which
prompts

prompt men to search after riches, in order to decorate the body. This may be called pride; so let it be; the name signifies nothing, but the passion is noble; and, were I a clergyman, I should preach as much for it, as many do against it.

It is this noble passion which employs, and gives bread, life, and vigour, to many denominations of people; it unites kingdom to kingdom, people to people, and brings all the world acquainted by traffic; it conveys the necessaries of life from country to country, where wanted, and brings home wealth.

It is the main spring to learning, and every thing that is great, good, and noble, and makes a man ashamed of doing an ill thing; if he has children, he is to instruct them in learning

ing and morality; he enlarges their minds, step by step, till they arrive at manhood; he then sends them abroad to search after riches, in climates unknown here; they still gain knowledge, by seeing more wonders of their creator.

They exchange articles, made by our ingenuity, for bullion, diamonds, and other precious stones, with people void of pride, consequently, of ingenuity too.

The extent of their knowledge is to gather them out of the bowels of the earth, after which they are brought home in abundance, filling the kingdom with bullion, which being coined into money, makes it plentiful; therefore gives the balance of power in its favour, by means of our own produce.

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These are natural consequences, which unthinking men call dearth of provisions, inasmuch as almost to fear a famine, when, in fact, it is no other than plenty and cheapness of money, that makes the alteration between the times now, and those a thousand years past; in which, a pound of beef, was a farthing; a peck of wheat, a penny, and a man's day labour, a penny also; therefore, it was equal, whether a labourer took a penny, or a peck of wheat, for his days work; and now it is near equal, whether he take eighteen-pence, or a peck of wheat for his days work. Every other article bears the same proportion. There has been the same gradual rise in provisions, as there has been a fall in the interest of money; as one goes up, the other comes down; but with-

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in the last twenty or thirty years, the progress has been quicker, chiefly owing to our success in the late wars.

About twenty years ago, I sold wheat for three shillings and six-pence a bushel, and, at the same time, paid no more than eight pounds a year for my head farmer's servant ; this year I sold wheat at seven shillings a bushel, and I give my head man fourteen pounds a year, in the same neighbourhood. Land could have been bought, not long ago, that would pay double the interest for money it will now.

In short, for all the aforesaid reasons, it may be no more wonder a thousand years hence, for wheat to be a guinea a peck, and other things in proportion, than it is now at the price it bears ; and what still makes it more reasonable

reasonable to think so, is, that money, being a durable article, wastes little; therefore, all the bullion that is found and brought home, is still adding to the bulk; whereas, provisions are perishable.

I am not without a fellow feeling for the poor; but I am clear, that they never lived better then they do in these days; the poor may be said to be truly so in every period of time; and the all-wise being saw it necessary it should be so, or he could as easily have given all men aspiring talents alike, as he made them.

Trade, like man, and man like the wheels of a watch, are all depending upon each other; they go round in a regular system; and, were it possible for an equal share to be given to each man this day, there would be the

same disproportion in a short space of time ; the disposition of the mind varies as much as the face. Some will debase the frame, both of body and mind, with intoxicating liquors, and wallow in their dirt and rags, little better than hogs in the mire.

Others, though they have not that passion for drink, are given to sloth and idleness ; and, for want of that noblest of all passions, namely, pride, will sit contented in rags and dirt, and live like the brute creation, upon what nature or chance hath provided for them, without stirring to look for more till necessity drives them ; then, indeed, they are obliged to work for those who are endued with a more rational, active, and aspiring spirit.

Thus the former mean, low, dispositions are punished for their indiscretion,

cretion, and made subservient and useful to those, who aspire nearest to their creator.

The latter sort are rewarded with a double pleasure, because they have it in their power to relieve and be useful to their fellow-creatures, and, at the same time, to enrich themselves by their labour.

A contemplative mind will immediately, by these hints, see the necessity there is for men to be endued with different degrees of understanding, or turns of temper, in order to govern and keep up a regular system, both in their own and the brute creation.

Trade by nature is a leveller; it formerly was carried on by barter, or exchanging one commodity for another; money was then little known, but as
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mens understanding grew riper, by diving more and more into the works of nature, ingenuity found out a different and easier method of dealing or carrying on trade, and extending it to a greater distance also; which was, by coining of money, and making a few ounces of metal an equivalent for corn or any other heavy bulky articles.

As gold and silver were then scarce, and little known, the first expedient fell upon stamping lead, and making it pass current, as money; after this, a very bad sort of brass or copper; from that, they got to an indifferent sort of silver; and, from silver to gold; always aspiring to the scarcest and most difficult metal to come at, which made it the harder to counterfeit.

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As enterprising geniuses have improved learning and navigation, mercantile adventurers have sprung up innumerable, who have ransacked deserts, found out islands or new countries, and brought home plenty of the dazzling ore, and other gaieties, which has given money the balance of power over provisions, the produce of our own soil.

This is the real ground work of the matter, and not any real scarceness of provisions; I am confident, that, by the ingenuity of man, in improving and tilling the earth, it is made to produce, at least, one fourth more than it did formerly.

I may be answered, (perhaps for want of better argument) that more is destroyed by the luxury of the present times; but this I much question ;

tion; for, though I acknowledge the world much more refined in living, yet I do not think that the same number of people destroy a greater quantity of provisions; for, if the victuals be richer in quality, a smaller bulk will answer the end; as it is the quality, and not the quantity, that satisfies nature: but, as I have expatiated upon this subject in my New System of Husbandry, I shall drop it here, and only just observe, that it is very immaterial, whether we eat the flour, and the hogs the bran, or the hogs the flour, and we the bran; for, which ever eats the bran, must take in a greater bulk to satisfy nature; and should the hogs eat the finest meat, it would encrease their bulk in proportion; and, as we eat the hogs, it nearly comes

comes to the same thing at last, if nothing be lost or thrown away ; and, I believe, this is seldom the case ; for, however gay and extravagant a man may be in his living, yet he loves to keep careful servants ; neither is it a family that keeps the genteel house, that spends the most victuals in it ; I know, from experience, that there are many hoggish country farmers, who live in a dirty, slovenly manner, that destroy more victuals in their house, than many who cut a figure in a much genteeler way of living.

Others will tell you, perhaps, that the rise of provisions may be owing to the cause of keeping so many horses, on account of post-chaises ; but this too is only imaginary, as,

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I believe, the encrease of post-chaises have not encreased the number of horses; neither are there so many wanted, as more people can be conveyed from place to place, in a post-chaise, with two horses, than on horseback as formerly; and, by change of horses, with much more expedition; therefore, it is plain, that trade is carried on with a much less number of horses than before post-chaises came into fashion.

In short, if we take a thorough view of the circulating system, and minutely consider the whole, we shall find no great matter of useless animals kept in the kingdom, to destroy provisions, except dogs, and these are provided against, should my scheme with respect to them take place.

As

As to horses ; though, in themselves, not food for mankind, yet they are a useful animal to till the ground, and raise food for them ; and as for oxen, cows, sheep, hogs, poultry, &c. &c. they are raised and fed for provisions ; consequently, no charge of extravagance can lie against them.

If we sum up the whole of what has been said, it must appear to every rational reader, that it is not provisions that are dear, but the richness of individuals, and plenty of money, that makes the alteration in the times.

Since this is the case, every rational reader must acknowledge, that the plausible plan will be to augment cultivation, in order to encrease the raising provisions, so that we

may have plenty within ourselves ; in such case we cannot be hurt, let the price be what it will ; the nature of trade will do all the rest ; it will make the individuals rich, and as capable of paying two shillings for a peck of wheat, and two shillings for a man's day's labour, as it was formerly to pay two pence for each ; since gold is near as plenty now as brass or copper was then.

The improvement in agriculture is grown to so great a pitch, that most of the lands in England, which are private property, are improved almost to the height, they are capable of ; and the next step should be to enlarge the domane and add plenty of land to the industry and ingenuity of the husbandman, which would certainly have the desired effect, were the

the legislature to make one general act for inclosing all the commons and waste lands in England, Wales, and Scotland; and this, without a doubt, would also be a means of keeping the people at home from emigration, as it would afford more farms, more labour, and room for improvement; the reason of which I shall give in the next chapter.

Some alledge too, that the height of provisions are owing to the landlords raising the rent of lands; this is also erroneous, as the lands are not raised, even near to the proportion of every other article: indeed, it is my opinion, that there is near one half of the kingdom that has not been raised at all within these twenty years; as I know a great many gentlemen of considerable estates, who
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continue their farms at the old rents, though the tenants have not leases; besides many others that are in lease.

However, I do not see such tenants much richer than their neighbours; nay, in fact they are poorer; I have a right to know this, perhaps, better than any one in the kingdom.

This may seem presumption in me, perhaps; however, my reasons are well grounded, having experimental knowledge thereof; for, before I published the New System of Husbandry, either curiosity, pleasure, or interest, or, perhaps, a mixture of all, induced me to take a view of every corner of his Majesty's dominions, in England, Ireland, and Scotland; scarce a village
has

has escaped a visit, either by myself or my riders, of which I always kept the most intelligent, sensible men I could meet with, to mix into all companies, and make their remarks or observations; and, it appears from every journal, and conversation with such indulged tenants, that the lenity they met with in having their land so cheap, was a hindrance to improvement.

Their answers, in general, are, that it is such as I, who made books that opened their landlords eyes, made them farmers, know the value of crops, and made them raise their rents; that, in short, they would not be book farmers, or improve their land, for if they did, they would have their rents raised like

like farmer Such-a-one, whose landlord had raised him ; that it was only for gentlemen farmers to try projects, in sowing turnips, clover, fensfoine, &c. (if in a neighbourhood where such things were not known) that they could scarce pay their rent as it was ; therefore, if they improved their land it would be raised upon them ; consequently, they must be broke. Such weak arguments, or contradictions in nature, I have heard from many farmers ; and, I doubt not, but other authors, who have wrote upon husbandry, have met with the like replies.

I know a gentleman, in Yorkshire, of a large estate, who is called a good landlord because he does not
raise

raise the rents of his tenants. I know many of his tenants well, and do affirm, that they are the poorest set of farmers of any in the neighbourhood wherein they live; though they have their land almost for nothing, yet they can scarce live.

Though they have no leases, they are scarcely ever turned out; but the son succeeds the father from generation to generation; and yet I have heard some of them so ungenerous and mean, as to answer, when I have asked them, why they did not improve their land better, &c? That they durst not, for fear of having their rents raised, or being turned out, as neighbour Such-a-one was; for though their present landlord was a good one, who knew what his successor might be, since they had

no lease, or any security, but at the will of the landlord? By the bye, I believe the last part of the argument is the main bar that keeps the farmers from being rich, and the land from being improved; as I verily believe, did the landlord double the rents, provided he gave leases, he and his tenants would be much better off, as the rent of land is a mere trifle, in comparison to the management of it.

C H A P. III.

The AUTHOR'S Opinion on Emigration.

MANY of my brother scribblers complain, that emigration proceeds from the landlords raising rents; but I am far from thinking that to be the case; I rather imagine it proceeds from the richness of individuals; abundance of trade; pride; learning; industry of the brain; ingenuity; and curiosity; which is so prevalent among all ranks of people, in the times we now live.

Learning first opened the door to riches, which excited the passion of pride; and this, having settled itself

in the soul, stimulates the mind to find out every possible method to feed that noble passion; I call it so, because it is a ray to our *locked-up* ideas; open one only, and many more will shew themselves.

We imagine that great riches are to be got abroad; and curiosity is not wanting to prompt us on to the acquisition.

However, this is not to be considered as a misfortune, but quite the reverse; as pride, with all its attendants, is a most valuable ingredient to unfold the ideas, and teach men wisdom; the more a man has, the nearer he arrives to divinity.

Emigration may be compared to a flock of sheep: if one leap over the fence, and give notice that he likes the pasture, the rest immediately follow. Through the channel
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of the news-papers we are told of the great treasures that are to be got abroad ; this sets the people's heads a gadding, so that they who have the least curiosity in them, cannot rest till they go to try their fortunes, as they call it.

This is the fuel that feeds the flame of emigration ; which is confirmed both by the light of reason and experience.

I have a man working for me at this present time, who is near sixty years of age ; he has been a large farmer most of his time, till within a few years last past ; he has now a small farm that joins me, which, with what he has of his own, keeps him above want ; notwithstanding which, I believe, he, with his wife and son, will go to New England.

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The reason originates from this cause; viz. a person in the neighbourhood, more curious and aspiring than the common run of people, persuaded a son of his, together with several others, to go last April, 1774, to New England; they liked the country very well; some wrote over for their friends, others came for them.

This has put numbers upon the move for going, who neither wanting farms nor money, have therefore no other motive for it than natural curiosity and aspiring ideas, which have been excited by their neighbours.

Indeed, I have read several letters, and also conversed with people that came from thence, whose accounts are very alluring.

Consequently, emigration proceeds
from

the above causes, and not from the high rent of lands complained of; as I am clear they are not so high in proportion as the articles, which the land produces.

In short, were some of the people whom I know are going, to have their land for half value, I dare say they would not be prevailed upon to stay.

Indeed, at the first beginning of emigration, I believe many husbandmen were almost forced to go, because farms were so scarce (not dear) in England, that they could not be met with at any price; and, I do not doubt, but were a hundred thousand farmers to emigrate, there would still be families enough for all the farms in England, if no step be taken
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to lower the size of them, or inclose commons, as before observed.

The high price, which the products of the earth have of late years been raised to, has made the farmers the richest body of people in England ; and, as their calling is healthful, I may also add, that they are the most fruitful. I have been very minute in my remarks, when upon my travels, and I am pretty clear, that, at least, three-fourths of all the farmers in the kingdom could each stock two farms, as large as what they at present occupy ; and also, that the said three-fourths (if joined together by marriage) could manage the said farms, could they be met with ; so that if we consider the case as it really stands, we should not wonder
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at emigration ; for God's sake let us not deviate from reason, or lay the blame where it is not blame-worthy.

Every farmer, now-a-days, brings up his children scholars, and the news paper creeps into most families ; so that they are as well acquainted (by theory) with what is going on abroad as the first minister of state.

It was thought a wonder formerly for a man to travel from Scotland to London, but now it is thought nothing of ; a voyage to the West Indies is now performed with as little ceremony or concern, as one would be to Ireland a century ago.

The inlets of nature being opened, the ideas are clear ; things appear plausible at first sight, which to a locked-up, uncultivated mind, is thought impossible to attain.

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The last century has met with great success in improving natural talents.

Man, by nature, has an aspiring soul; open but the first leaf in the book of nature, and the ideas will, for the future, unfold themselves.

Various thoughts arise in different heads: as our occupations differ in life, the inlets of nature being opened, the ideas are clear; things appear plausible at first sight.

Almost every neighbourhood affords some men of curiosity and enterprising genius, who go abroad and make their fortunes, and return with splendor; the riches they bring, are the corroborating circumstances that give credit to the many surprising tales they tell; and as men, I say, are by nature aspiring, they are sufficient to
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rouse them towards emigration, if they have any curiosity in them.

Then, how can we wonder at emigration, when we consider, that man is only obeying the dictates of nature: is it not natural for him to search after wisdom? certainly; he must, if he be endowed with the spirit of God.

This, to a rational meditating soul, is a sort of a spiritual food, on which it feeds; which, on contemplation, gives it a relish for higher treasures, which it can never attain in this world.

The road to acquire wisdom, and arrive as near as possible to perfection, lies through the valley of learning, and travels; the former opens the ideas, and through the latter we suck in wisdom by experience; merchan-

dize is acquired by both, from which proceeds riches that tickle the fancy of pride, and stir her up to search after gaities to decorate the body; which is mostly brought from distant countries, the search whereof has opened the door to emigration.

Every kingdom has its time for flourishing; Jerusalem; Rome; and Troy, had each their day, and flourished above all others in their time; but when improvement had got to the height in these countries, and the inhabitants were innumerable, each inflamed the other with aspiring thoughts, to search after countries yet unknown; being found, they emigrated to them. England had her share among the rest; she got some of the inhabitants of Troy, and has been growing

ing up to maturity ever since the destruction of that city. As her inhabitants multiplied, their ideas opened; ingenuity ripened; and aspiring thoughts of pride spurred them on to search after treasures, to please the fancy, in adorning the body, &c. Improvements in navigation opened a field of treasures in the mines of Peru and Mexico; as also discoveries opened upon us in America; and as we grew rich and populous, we likewise grew proud and ambitious, by aspiring to people the continent, and add to our dominions. Thus the foundation was laid for emigration, from England to America, which is as natural a consequence as it was for other rich populous countries to emigrate to her. Every state flourishes but for a time;

time. The smaller an island is, the sooner it comes to maturity: But as we have had the presumption, and likewise success, to people so great part of the continent, in so short a time, I am firmly of opinion, that the seat of the empire will in time be there; and should such a thing happen, that the King of England was to settle, and take the parliament to America, and fix a lieutenancy in England, the protestant interest would then be truly the greatest in the known world; our King might then bid defiance to all others in the universe from disturbing his peace; and, according to the appearance of things, when we consider the ripeness of the age, the richness of individuals, the number of the people, and the spirit
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of emigration, such a period cannot be far off. Were the fulness of time come, which indeed cannot be till the continent is well peopled, perhaps it might be the happiest day the protestant interest ever saw.

My readers may think this a wild random thought, and a thing not likely to happen; however that may be, I am of an opinion, such a scheme would be the most sure and eligible one that could be fixed upon, to enlarge and secure the protestant interest, as also the present royal line, from all pretenders whatever; and though I have neither place or pension, or desire any, yet if every true Englishman loved that line and cause so well as I do, they would go every reasonable length towards fixing it upon such a sure and
solid

solid foundation, as might defy all the universe to shake.

Would it not be much safer to fix the throne there, than to let the Americans form a republic of their own? I apprehend a scheme could easily be brought about, to unite them to the mother country, and tie such a knot of friendship, as would defy all invaders or pretenders.

There has often been a talk of building a palace for the King, in London, which indeed is wanted; but the treasury being poor, and so much in debt, and taxes already so high, money cannot be spared for that purpose. Now, suppose a proclamation was issued out in America for building a palace in Philadelphia for the King to live in, which he need not do, except he chose it,
and

and when he pleased: but instead of going himself, suppose he was to send his second son to reside there as high regent, to transact all business, and sign all acts that might pass relating to the continent. A thing of this sort is absolutely necessary, to give the people a lively satisfaction, and to be a guard over them, and keep them in subjection.

I am clear, from the nature of things, that this would please much, make them submit to every constitutional act that might be brought on the carpet between them and the mother country; it would conciliate their affections, and bring them back to obedience; it would make them join force to force, and bid defiance to all pretenders or invaders; it would remove every suspicion of jealousy

lously relating to governors ; and put an end to that inflaming, unstable, and discontented spirit of opposition, which always prevails between the people and a second-hand governor.

Was a proclamation issued to build a palace for the above purpose, and permit the Americans to raise money for it in their own way, I make no doubt but that they would, with great chearfulness, quickly raise a fund sufficient to build one of the most magnificent houses in the universe.

If we consider both sides of the question, we may see the many good effects such a scheme would be attended with ; but not one bad or doubtful one ; except, that a doubt may arise from the heir apparent to the crown's living there ; it might
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enure him to the climate, and unite him to the people ; infomuch, that when he became King, he might rather chuse to live there than in England : however, this would lay in his own breast ; and if he chose to live there, he might send the next heir to the crown to reside in England, as high regent.

This may seem to be of ill consequence to England to a narrow-minded selfish person, whose ideas reach not beyond the present times, or whose understanding is confined within the boundaries of his own estate ; however, if we but consider the immense difference between the continent and England, the immense number of people the former will hold to what the latter does, the great treasure they will bring to the state, and

strength to the protestant line ; consequently, add peace, and give the people pleasure and security in their possessions ; I say, if we but consider all these pleasing circumstances, we shall be in raptures of joy, to think what good effects such a period and scheme would bring forth for the good of posterity.

This may seem to some, not likely to happen ; to others, at too great a distance to bear a thought ; and to many, indifferent : as my sojourn here cannot be long, together with other family considerations, I may be classed among the latter ; however my ideas have led me to this subject thirty years ago ; and I always considered, that the seat of the empire would be, at some time, placed in the continent ;
but

but never expected such large strides would be taken towards it in my time; but the thing is now glaring, and really requires some consideration of better heads, and in more power than mine; all that such little insignificant creatures as I can do, are only to form pleasing ideas of what we we would do if we could; if a man's mind is his kingdom, as the phrase is, mine is fixed in this point; and all the power I have, or desire, is, to communicate it to the public; but though my power is small, I am certain my good wishes are as great as any one's, towards my King and Country, which I doubt not, but providence will protect and direct for the best.

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 is, mine is fixed in this point;
 and all the power I have or desire,
 is to communicate it to the people;
 I have thought my report to be full, I am
 presenting my good wishes and a great as-
 surance of my love towards my King and
 Country, and I shall not, but
 providing you please, and direction
 in the bill.

C H A P IV.

Shewing the great advantage that would accrue to the Public was a General Act made for Inclosing all Commons, Forests, or Waste Lands.

OF all the schemes that have been hitherto set on foot, for lowering the price of provisions, I apprehend none looks so plausible, for that purpose, as a general act for inclosing commons and all waste lands, which would certainly be of great utility to the public.

In one thousand seven hundred and seventy-two, the public were agreeably

ably amused for a while with a scheme set on foot, by subscriptions in Bristol and London, which was, to reduce the price of provisions, relieve the poor, &c. but though the design was a public spirited and laudable undertaking, yet a little reflection must convince every rational experienced person, that it could not answer the end, so as to be of great utility.

It was very unlikely that a few individuals, though rich, could cause a change among such a multitude of people as England contains; this reason might dictate, and experience quickly proved it; for it soon died away, and came to nothing, without any sensible good effect to the public; perhaps a few poor in the neighbourhood where the thing happened, might gain a trifle for

for a time, but it was a mere trifle indeed, in comparison to the whole.

Yet, little as it is, when the fund drops, as it naturally must, (for all the public charities in England could not keep it up) it leaves the poor in as needy a condition as ever; nay, perhaps worse; for it may have given them a sort of a dependance, and have diverted them from applying so close to industry as usual; and which they must do, though against their wills, upon the stoppage of any such public charities, which seldom hold long, when dependant upon the voluntary contribution of the donors.

If we would wish a public good, we should aim at a general undertaking; many hands make light work, is an old proverb; raise an universal emulation among the people, allure

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them

to improvements, by voluntary acts in themselves, which promise each individual profit, and consequently, a public plenty.

This is most likely to be effected by two schemes ; first, by enacting such laws, as may make it the interest of each to apply himself to industry.

Secondly, by striking out proper plans for improvement ; which, if plausible, will of course be followed, with rapidity, whether in a mercantile way, to gather wealth from the Indies to decorate the external parts, or to our own fields, to raise food for the needy populace ; and since the ingenious enterprising spirit of the times has brought home so much riches, as to give the balance of power in favour of the former, it is now
become

become absolutely necessary to bend the minds of the public to the latter, till every corner of the kingdom is so well tilled, as to admit of no more improvement; then it will be time enough to emigrate into a foreign country, to improve that also; but as, perhaps, one fourth of this little island is yet a barren waste, it will be some time before improvement can be at the greatest height.

It would, doubtless, be a great satisfaction to the public, as also a guide for the legislature to go by, were they truly informed, how much common or waste land is in England; which may easily be attained, by the method laid down in a table annexed to this work; put that plan in practice, and it will give a thorough idea of the state of the kingdom in all the

most important points in all the points necessary to be acquainted with.

Till then we can have no certainty, how much of the kingdom lies waste, in commons, &c. It is judg'd by many, that, at least, one fourth lies useless; which, perhaps is a moderate computation; if this be the case, was it improved, it would add to the kingdom one fourth more riches, provisions, and also, strength to guard against an enemy; as a farm house would be quickly built to accommodate each proper quantity of land, consequently the whole would be inhabited with a number of people adequate to the tillage or improvement of the same.

Here we see, at one view, the great advantage that would accrue to the public: first, it would be a means
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of keeping the people from emigrating to the wilds of America, as they would then have liberty to cultivate the wastes in their own country; and, it is well known, that the riches and strength of an island or kingdom, depends upon the number of its inhabitants; they also add treasure to the public funds, as a duty is paid for almost every necessary of life, whether meat, drink, or apparel; therefore I need not say that a man, his wife, and eight children, adds ten treasures to the public funds, ten portions of strength to defend the kingdom, and ten hands to till the ground; which will bring, in the end, ten times as much to the market as a single man; consequently, they are of ten times the utility to the public; and yet, many farmers sons are withheld from
marrying,

marrying, through the scarcity of farms to settle upon, which would be, in a great measure removed, was a general act to take place for inclosing, and another for limiting the size of farms.

Let weak heads argue to the contrary, if they will, but these are facts that cannot be controverted. I have many a time heard wrong heads argue against inclosing commons or waste lands, the foundation of whose arguments are as weak as their understandings; however, though weak, they may sometimes do hurt, by throwing cold water upon useful schemes.

How often do we here and see scribblers and talkative men exclaim against inclosing commons; that it starves the poor, depopulates the country, &c. &c. whereas, take the
thing

thing to pieces and examine it, point by point, and it will be found quite the reverse ; for commons absolutely keep the people poor, and are an inlet to roguery and idleness.

It is an undeniable fact, that those people who live in villages, near, and depending upon, commons, are the poorest in England ; and, indeed, the thing speaks for itself ; because every labourer and servant, that can flock to such places, and gain settlements ; take a common-right house, which intitles them to keep stock thereon : after which, perhaps, they raise a cow, and a few sheep, on which is the dependance for a wife and children to live upon. Not being half supplied with work, (as little is to be got in such places) their chief dependance is, the milk of a half-starved
 COW,

cow, and the produce of a few ragged, half-starved sheep, which are generally taken off once in every two or three years by the rot; this brings the owners either to the parish, or to beg or steal, and at last perhaps, to the gallows; for most of the horse, cow, and sheep-stealers in the kingdom, are bred in such places as are near commons.

These are the general consequences which attend people adjoining to commons; if the land they consist of be naturally good, it is so much over stocked, that it is pitiful to see how much they are starved, and prevented from coming to their natural growth.

If the land be heathy and barren, the few stock it keeps, are poor, small, and dwarfy, and of very little consequence,

consequence, either to their owners, or to the public, by adding to the funds of provisions.

Though the above is literally true, was it so but in a small degree, the effects thereof would not be so sensibly felt by the public; but dreadful it is, when we consider, that not less than one fourth part of the kingdom lies locked up from the public, in this barren neglected state. It is ill policy, nay it is indolence, and folly to the highest degree, not to take away this bar to improvement, and, by a general act, make it lawful for all commons and wastes to be inclosed; because of consequence, improvement, and plenty of provisions would soon follow.

What can a traveller say, upon seeing so much waste grounds as we

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have

have in England? He must naturally conclude, that there is something defective, either in our laws, or spirit of improvement; or that our historical maps, &c. are erroneous, and impositions upon the public, by describing the kingdom much larger than it really is, or else we could not spare so much land to lye barren, consequently unpeopled; and yet the people are emigrating, to improve a new world.

It would be true policy, to take away every bar, and give every possible encouragement to improve our own kingdom. First, then, should the hive be too small to contain the swarm, let them, like the industrious bee, cast, or turn out, to enrich her common wealth elsewhere.

Of all the evils before us, we
ought

ought to chuse the least; and I would be glad to know, what ill consequences could arise from such a general act, should it take place.

Perhaps a parcel of weak, ignorant farmers, who love to see a quantity of dwarfy, half-starved, cattle, may exclaim against inclosing; but they are only hurt in idea, by thinking, that they could not live without commons; however, let such look into the state of the parishes that have none, and they will find there much richer and happier people, perhaps, than themselves; therefore, little regard should be paid to such imaginary evils, and short-sighted men; they are not worthy a thought, in comparison of the many good consequences that
would

would arise from such a public act's taking place.

Again : repeated experience tells us, that a general inclosure must be a general good, from the many private acts that are procured every session of parliament for that purpose ; which are no sooner obtained, but the land is inclosed, improved, built upon, and inhabited ; sure this is a lesson that any one may run and read ; but though so many private acts are daily procuring, it is only half doing the business ; it is slow in its motion, and is a very great clog upon the wheel of improvement, as the trouble and expence it costs to procure an act of parliament, would go a great way towards improving the land ; whereas, a general

neral act would avoid this, by doing all at once,

Should such waste lands not be immediately all improved, from the immense quantity there is, yet no ill consequences could arise therefrom, as they cannot grow the worse for lying till the industrious hand reaches them, which in the nature of things, could not be far off, if we may judge by a little, what much means; for now-a-days an act is no sooner procured, but the common is improved.

I doubt not but there is as much waste land, &c. within twenty miles round London, as, were it reclaimed, would add one-fourth more provisions to that market: what an amazing change this must make in that metropolis! for it would
not

not only augment provisions, but it would be also a means of providing the poor labourers with work (in tilling the ground, &c.) to buy them with.

These are no chimerical schemes, they are facts which must be known to every one, who travels over the many large heaths, forests, or commons, within twenty or thirty miles round the city of London; and, indeed, so in proportion, through the kingdom. Since this is the case, let every well-meaning reader employ his interest in procuring a general act for inclosing: suppose the preamble to run as follows:

S C H E M E

C H A P. V.

*On a General Act for Inclosing
Commons.*

WH E R E A S the scarcity of provisions has become a public concern; and that it appears to the King's Most Excellent Majesty, and to the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, That there is a large quantity of waste lands in this kingdom, such as are commonly called forests, heaths, or commons, which, if they were inclosed and improved, would add greatly towards making plenty of provisions:

May it therefore please your Majesty, That it may be enacted, from
and

and after the day of
in and be it enacted by the
King's Most Excellent Majesty, by
and with the advice and consent of
Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and
Commons in this present Parliament
assembled, and by the authority of
the same, That all waste lands, such
as are commonly called forests,
heaths, or commons, in England,
Wales, and Scotland, shall, after the
 day of become
private property: that it shall be
lawful for the lord of a manor, the
clergyman, or any other principal
inhabitant of a parish where such
commons or heaths belong, and such
as can prove a right thereto, to call,
by public advertisement, a meeting,
to consider of ways and means pro-
per for inclosing and improving all
 commons

commons heaths, or waste unprofitable lands, within the district, or belonging to the said parish or parishes; that it shall be lawful for the said parishioners, having common-right on the said wastes, together with the Lord of the Manor and clergyman of the said parish, to chuse proper persons to act as commissioners, to divide, allot, and lay out, the said waste lands in equal proportions; and it shall be lawful for the said commissioners to allot one full fifteenth part to the Lord of the Manor, in lieu of his royalty, one fifteenth part to the clergyman of the parish, in lieu of tythe, one fifteenth part to the poor of the parish, and the remainder of the said waste or common to be equally divided among such as prove a right thereto: And be it enacted,
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ed, That it shall be lawful for the said commissioners to levy a tax upon each allotment, such as they may think sufficient to defray all expences relating to the said inclosure ; such as making water courses, high roads, bridges, &c. through, and belonging to the said inclosure : These regulations, restrictions, and conditions, being duly complied with, according to the literal sense and meaning of the words, inclosing commons, the land shall become private property to those who shall prove a right of common on the said waste lands : And it shall be lawful for them to inclose and improve the same as his, her, or their legal estate, &c. &c.

C H A P. VI.

For limiting the size of Farms to Four Hundred Acres each.

W H E R E A S it appears from repeated experience, that small farmers are a very useful body of people, not merely because they raise great quantities of fowls, eggs, butter, &c. to supply the markets; but because they turn the land more to tillage, which affords more provisions from the same quantity of land, than when too much is in the hands of one man, as he turns it to grazing, which is a great distress to the lower class of people:

May it therefore please your Majesty, that it may be enacted, and be

it enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, That from and after

in the year it shall not be lawful for one man to rent more than four hundred acres at one time, under the penalty of five shillings for each and every acre he rents above the said four hundred acres, to be recovered by distress and sale of goods, as in all other cases of law; And, for the better discovering the quantity so rented above the lawful quantity of four hundred acres; Be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That when a farm is larger than the law directs, it shall be lawful for the

S C H E M E S. 85

the informer to take a surveyor to measure the land, any time between the 29th of September and the 25th of March ; the informer to have the first years quit-rent of five shillings for every acre he proves to be above the lawful quantity of four hundred, including arable, meadow, and pasture, and all rentable lands, commons and waste grounds excluded,

CHAP.

C H A P VII.

*On the Accidents happening by over-
drove Cattle in the Streets of London.*

TH E R E is a grievance in London which calls aloud for redress; and that is, a regulation among the butchers, salesmen, and porters, or penny boys, who buy and drive cattle from Smithfield market, &c. to different parts of the city : the latter of which are a set of the most worthless, inhumane, hard-hearted, blood-thirsty vagabonds in London : in short, they are a school for every sort
of

of vice and wickedness, which very often ends in a tyburn jaunt.

Every sensible reader will allow, that an ox, after having been kept to the plough, fed, and drove many miles up to London, must be a very docile, tame creature ; an instance was scarce ever known of their doing any damage when drove in the public roads to London, which is full of passengers, whilst they are used with gentle means, and kept with their companions ; which plainly proves, that they are raised into a ferment and madness (from which proceed the mischiefs so frequently complained of) by the drivers, and by being parted from their companions.

Indeed, were they not a very docile, tame sort of creatures, we might expect much more mischief from
them

them, considering the many thousands that are so barbarously used, when in the clutches of the London drivers.

They generally arrive in Smithfield cool, gentle, and quiet, in which condition they remain till they are sold, and driven to the slaughter-houses, at which time they are most commonly separated.

As soon as the driver has orders to take them away, he begins immediately to shout and halloo, and beat them about the head and legs, and part them from their companions; if they have any spirit in them, this treatment will raise it, heat their blood, and cause a fermentation, which drives them into wildness, from that into madness, to seek revenge, as all nature will when too much oppressed by an enemy, which the London
N drivers

drivers may very justly be stiled with respect to them; for the small time they are within their clutches, they torture them severely, by knocking or beating them about the head and legs, which parts are the tenderest, consequently the most susceptible of pain: they are forbid striking them on the fleshy parts, because it would bruise and turn it black, and of course prevent the sale of the meat.

Now, since we see, from reason and experience, the two evils which tend to inflame the cattle, drive them mad, and to much mischief in the streets of London; viz. beating and ill usage, as also too suddenly parting them from their companions; I conceive there is only one method to prevent the many misfortunes that daily arise therefrom; and that is, to use

use them in the opposite extremes, till they arrive at the slaughter house.

I am told, that the legislature has lately come to some resolutions concerning this grievance; what their scheme is, I cannot say, as I have not seen the act; but should it be to have the cattle secured by leading or haltering them, I am afraid the cure will be worse than the disease; for where it happens that cattle has never been broke to the halter or confined, it is a very improper time to do it in the streets of London; as upon such an occasion, they are inflamed, and made mad. An ox that has never been handled or confined, would take ten men to lead him to the slaughter house; and if by much labour they got him there, his fat would be melted with striving and fretting, and his flesh heated

heated, so as to render it almost useless; and as meat over heated will not take salt, or keep, therefore this scheme will not answer any good purpose. Suppose an act was made to run nearly in the following words.



C H A P VIII.

Of driving Cattle from Smithfield Market and to prevent mischief in the Streets of London.

W H E R E A S it appears to the King's Most Excellent Majesty and to the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons in this present Parliament assembled, that many accidents happen in the streets of London, owing to the indiscretion and barbarity of the drivers, in taking them from the market to the slaughter-houses.

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May it therefore please your Majesty, that it may be enacted, and be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That from and after the day of in it shall not be lawful for any porter, penny boy, or other person, to drive cattle in the streets of London, from Smithfield market to the slaughter houses, or else where, without a brass ticket fastened upon his arm, upon which shall be engraved his name, number, and place of abode.

And be it further enacted, That it shall not be lawful for any of the said ticket drivers, to drive cattle in the streets of London, with any stick, staff, prong, or any weapon, except a small whip, the thickest part of the handle of which, shall not exceed one inch and a half in circumference

ference, and a pattern of the same to be kept in the hands of the ticket master.

And be it enacted, That a buyer or owner of cattle shall not suffer any ox, cow, or bull, which comes to Smithfield Market to be sold as fat, to be driven loose and singly in the streets of London, but shall be driven in company with other cattle, to the slaughter-house, or other place of confinement, except when they come led to the market, and are tyed therein for sale; in such case they may be led at discretion.

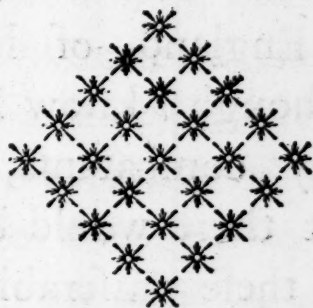
And be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any one be taken in the fact, of driving cattle contrary to the law aforesaid, within three days after it is committed, and he be convicted thereof before any of his Majesty's

jefty's justices of the peace, he shall pay five shillings for the first offence, or suffer one month's imprisonment; ten shillings for the second offence, or two months imprisonment; twenty shillings for the third offence or three months imprisonment.

And be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That a proper person shall be appointed by the lord mayor, every Michaelmas-day, to keep a ticket office to register tickets, and give them out to such persons as shall come well recommended for their honesty and sobriety: none to be admitted but housekeepers, and such as have a family; each to pay for his ticket one shilling, for registering, as a reward to the office keeper for his trouble.

N. B

N. B. If none were to be admitted to this employ but poor house keepers, it would relieve many poor families that are in want, and who are ashamed to ask relief; and it also would break up a nest of loose, idle vagrant young fellows, who are guilty of every sort of wickedness and debauchery.



C H A P. IX.

*On the inhumane and ill-judged Law,
of hanging Convicts for Felony.*

TH E next thing I shall present the public with, is my thoughts upon that most barbarous law which prevails in England, of hanging felons; and though I know I shall meet with many combatants, who may argue that there would be no living were not these miserable creatures put out of the world, yet I trust, the more humane and thinking part of mankind will be of my opinion.

In

In this point of penal law the French have much the advantage of us, in my opinion ; for, instead of putting felons to death, they condemn them to row or work in the gallies for life, or till reprieved ; from this some advantage is derived, both to the public and the convict ; to the former he is made a useful member to society, by labouring, not only for his own subsistence, but by adding something to the public funds ; he has likewise time to reflect and repent of his former dissolute course of life, as there are few who come to this untimely end, but have been guilty of more errors than that for which they suffer ; as conviction generally comes when wickedness is at the height. But how shocking it is to think, that a person should be cut off in the midst of his
fins,

sins, and deprived of the benefit of the gospel, for there is no repentance in the grave ; as the tree falls so it lies ; and what time has a poor miserable wretch for repentance, being condemned and hanged within a few days of each other ? A short time indeed to make an atonement for his past wicked life. Beside he must be very unfit for sincere reflections, when he is distracted with agonies both of body and mind, as he certainly must be, after condemnation, being both loaded with irons, and terrified with the thoughts of death ; infomuch sometimes, as to drive him into despair.

I cannot help thinking but that the legislature is, in some degree, answerable for their sins, as it cuts them off from the power of repentance, when
perhaps,

perhaps, they want it most; but if put under such proper confinement and restriction as a turbulent spirit requires, they might make atonement and satisfaction for their misdeeds; if not, the law would be quit of the charge, as it would act with a proper caution, by confining him, as one would a mad bull, lest he should do further mischief, by corrupting the morals of others, and depriving his neighbours of their substance, to feed a dissolute, idle habit of body.

I acknowledge, that it is very prudent, nay, absolutely necessary, for the law to be strict and watchful over the immoral actions of mankind; for as the world is stocked with different dispositions and tempers, the law ought to watch, chastise, and punish, the wicked, as a father would

would his children, lest their vices get the dominion over them; but I am of opinion that no earthly law has a right to take away life, except for murder; God gave, and none but he has a right to take away.

Holy writ says, thou shalt not kill; and again, if thou do, blood shall be required for blood; and suppose we had not this testimony for our guide, but were a people who knew not the scriptures, what man with the light of reason, dare say to the contrary?

Nature points out to the whole animal creation, that it is unnatural for one (of the same species) to kill another; and shall man, who is the king of his lower creations, derogate from the pure law of nature? shall he,
whom

whom God has made in his own image, and breathed in him his holy spirit, made him a rational reasonable being, I say, shall he dare to take the power out of his Maker's hands, by taking life, and dividing the spirit from the body, when he is expressly forbidden to do it, both by the law of nature, and the holy word?

If we judge rationally of things, we shall find it real good and greatness of wisdom for the omnipotent to place different degrees of understandings and tempers in the human race; for, suppose all men had the same even temper or understanding; of whatever kind, dull, or sprightly, wise or foolish; man, in either case, would lose a great deal of pleasure in his journey through life,
which

which in the present state of things he naturally and daily enjoys.

If one man in a community have brighter and clearer ideas than the rest, he, of course becomes a teacher to the duller sort, and every idea he conveys to the learner, both parties receive pleasure therefrom; the learner, like him who travels through a fine country, sees wonders which before escaped him, and, as discovery begets discovery, so does wisdom beget wisdom; pleasures lighten up pleasure, and the latter is a true child and offspring of the former.

It gives a man pleasure, that he can learn his brother; so does it to the latter, when his ideas are enlarged, and he sees wonders he never before beheld.

Even the wisest teacher in the middle

dle of his own lesson, will convey to himself pleasing ideas which he never before thought of; so that it is a true saying, the teacher may be taught out of the universal book of nature, till the day of judgment.

Wisdom is like a plant which springs up with us from our childhood; if it be placed in a fertile brain, (as a plant in a fertile soil) it will throw out luxuriant shoots.

It will aspire with wonder and amazement into regions where corruptible matter cannot come.

Nothing less than spiritual ideas can reach such pleasing and ravishing delights as appear to a refined understanding.

He reads the universal book of nature till pleasure flows in every page,

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and

and the more he reads and learns, the nearer he arrives to divinity.

There are different degrees of understanding from an idiot to the most learned and wise; and each is a help or dependant upon the other: But can all our learning and natural philosophy, furnish us with reasons sufficient to indemnify us for depriving our brother of his life; because, perhaps, nature prompted him to take clandestinely what was necessary to preserve it? No, certainly: for, when God gave life and animal spirits, he also gave natural cravings of appetite, in order to prompt him on to preserve it, and gave food for the purpose thereof.

And shall man then, kill one of his own species, because he obeys the dictates of nature? Indeed, could no better method

method be found out than death to secure our property, and check the impetuosity of such turbulent, diabolical, or indolent spirits, then an excuse might be framed for the desperate step of taking away life.

But the same ingenuity and power that made the law to hang a man, could also make or frame methods to deprive him of his liberty, and make him subservient to the will of those, who had more conduct to regulate his life; and, instead of depriving him of it, make it useful to the public, and himself sensible of his former errors, and also obedient to the moral laws of his God; which before were neglected, either through his natural propensity to evil, or perhaps, his parents neglect; but I rather think the latter to be the case; for, when

blood is corrupted, and gets into a wrong channel, it is hard to stop its course; we generally see the offspring of parents of depraved morals have a tendency the same way.

It is true, there is no general rule without an exception; but we may almost trace the blood in families of good and bad people, as jockies and cockers do in their horses and cocks.

I seldom hear the subject of hanging felons mentioned in any company, but their wishes are, that some method could be found out for punishment, without taking away life.

This, I think, is no hard matter to do,—which I shall point out; though I doubt not but it will meet with many objections among diffident people; as is generally the case when
any

any new change happens, that leads out of the old road.

Instead of hanging or transportation, suppose they were put to hard labour during life, or for the time they were to be transported, upon some public work, such as making turnpike roads ; in the coal pits or lead mines, or cutting canals, &c.

Perhaps some may think they could not be confined, but would break loose upon the public ; in this there would be little danger ; and, suppose they did, the consequence could not be great ; however, they should be so marked, that those who see, might read their crimes, consequently, they would soon be brought back to their duty.

Every roguery or elopement is sooner detected now than formerly,
when

when the country was woody, roads bad, and news papers few; intelligence in those days moved slow, but now by the improvements of roads, regularity and swiftness of the post, with the multiplicity of news papers, advertisements, &c. nothing can escape being known all over the kingdom in a few days.

Judge, jury, and prosecutor shrinks at taking away life for felony, which is the reason why so many villains go unpunished for little crimes, and which encourages them the next step perhaps, both to rob and murder; whereas, if life was not in danger, every petty pilfering rogue, would be persecuted without reserve and fear.

This would be laying the axe to the root of the tree, the seeds of wickedness would be nipt in the bud;
in

S C H E M E S. III

in short, it would cause a thorough change in the morals of the people: Vice would then be stopped, and brought to public shame, before it was too deeply rooted: Idleness would then be made an example of by having a mark in the face, which would not be extinguished in an instant, by a chuck under the chin, as the blackguards express it, but shame would stare them in the face all their lives, which would mortify both soul and body, and that too, before the face of the world; this would affect the most tender point in the composition of our whole frame; namely, pride.

If any thing will prevent a man from doing an ill thing, it is pride; man is ashamed of being found out in acting contrary to nature; therefore he
takes

takes all dark and private opportunities of transacting unseemly things; but if found out, his pride is touched, and he is ashamed of it. Though pride and shame are two inseparable companions, yet they are perpetually clashing with each other; for, when pride is in the heart, it will make shame blush at every unseemly action.

Therefore, the best way to keep down the bad morals of man, is to plan such laws as will keep them at variance.

But though pride is one of the most valuable and noble passions that belongs to the noble frame, if she take the right way, yet she sometimes overacts herself, by desiring to be great all at once; the flattering ideas open too fast upon her, and prompts her
to

to methods unwarrantable by law, or consistent with honesty.

Pride is seated in the soul, which gives it lofty aspiring ideas, and would never act contrary to divinity, had she not so close connections with the animal spirits of a corrupt body; it is those that elevate or depress her, according to the state of health we are in.

Should a person be, by nature, of a hot constitution, his animal spirits run quick and lively, which gives the whole frame a sprightly, active, disposition; it cannot rest, but must be in motion; stirring the very soul to action, as well as the body.

Should a person be of a cold constitution, his animal spirits run slow and languid, and so in proportion is his
 Q disposition;

disposition ; moody, stupid, dull and heavy.

Though experience so clearly proves, that the human race differ so widely in their different dispositions or intellects, yet I make no doubt, but every soul on it's entering the body, is alike pure, and tending to divinity : therefore the diversity of understandings, and evil or good qualities which we generally find among men, arise solely from the state, or habit the animal fluids are in ; and these are the sources of either good or evil.

By taking a philosophical view of the works of nature, and particularly of our own wonderful frame, it will open our ideas sufficiently to prove, that they are the animal spirits which, in some degree make us roguish or honest ;
idle

idle or industrious; wise or foolish; and the maker and giver of all things sees it is necessary and proper for his creatures to have such diversities of understandings among them, and to checquer the world with varieties of good and evil: it is by experiencing the latter, that we are capable of knowing and enjoying the former, which makes our sojourn here more agreeable: was it not for this, life would scarce be worth enjoying.

Can a man say, because he is happier or greater, in this life, than his neighbour, that he is a greater favourite of his maker? forbid it reason, and call wisdom to back the cause! Did not God make all, and give various understandings to all? and could he not, if he thought proper, make that understanding equal? cer-

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tainly

tainly he could ! but had it been so, the journey through life would have been one even smooth path, which would have made it insipid and tiresome; conversation would lose its use, because all men would have been of one mind. The different understandings which men are possessed of, make them contradict each other, raise arguments, and form plans to find out the truth that leads to divinity. And though the morals of some men are very bad, yet we know not but the maker of all gave them on purpose for some wise end; as very often good comes out of evil; however, though it may be proper to check or suppress all wickedness, as much as we possibly can, yet I think it unwarrantable in man to take away life, except for murder; neither do I think
that

that the law, as it now stands, for hanging felons, has the desired effect in lessening the growth of evils.

As to murder, God hath said, "He that sheddeth blood, by man shall his blood be shed: eye for eye, tooth for tooth, &c. &c." and instead of hanging them in the public manner, as at present, I would have them to stand upon a trap door, in time of trial, and as soon as sentence was passed, it should drop them immediately out of sight, to be no more heard of; this would be the greatest terror to the mind that can be imagined; for a man to go, he knows not where, or suffer a death he knows not of, would be shocking to his imagination. I am of an opinion, that one execution this way, would
damp

damp the spirits of a villain, more than to see twenty hanged.

If what has been said upon the impolitical and inhumane laws of taking life for felony, be duly considered by my readers, I flatter myself they will think with me, that the outlines of the following plan may be of public utility, if enacted into a law ; therefore, they will give their voice and approbation accordingly.

C H A P. XI.

*How to punish Felons without Death,
and to make them useful Members to
Society.*

WH E R E A S it appears to the
King's most Excellent Majesty,
and to the Lords Spiritual and Tem-
poral, and Commons, in this present
Parliament Asssembled, that the law,
as it now stands, for punishing felons
with death or transportation, though
severe in the consequence, yet hath
not the desired effect; Be it therefore
enacted by the King's Most Excellent
Majesty, by and with the consent of
the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and
Com-

Commons in this present Parliament
 assembled, and by the Authority of
 the same, that from and after the
 day of in the

year That every such per-
 son tried for felony, and found guilty
 thereof, and condemned for death or
 transportation, shall, from and after
 the day and year aforesaid, be put
 under the care of an officer, who
 shall keep them at hard labour, ei-
 ther on turnpike roads, cutting ca-
 nals, making ditches, inclosing com-
 mons, working either in coal or other
 mines, or any work that can or may
 be procured by the officer, together
 with the consent of the Bench of
 Justices, in the country where they
 committed the crime, and are con-
 demned in. And be it further enact-
 ed by the Authority aforesaid, That
 the

the said Justices shall appoint such officers to take care of the same, as they may think proper.

And be it enacted, That the Judge shall nominate the time of servitude to labour, according, or in proportion, to the crimes each culprit has been guilty of.

And be it enacted, That each culprit shall have his own name, the name of the officers, the county and place of abode, and date when convicted, wrote upon his forehead, in so visible a manner as to be easily read; this may be done by pricking and raising the skin with the point of a needle, and putting under it gunpowder, which, if well done, will be conspicuous for life; but if not, it must be renewed as often as is necessary, by the officer, as

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he shall see it necessary : And be it enacted, That every prisoner shall have a chain of tempered steel locked upon his legs for the first six months, at the end of which it shall be taken off, except he shall prove any way refractory ; in such case the officer may put it on at discretion.

And be it enacted, That each officer shall be paid by the county, the yearly salary of one hundred pounds ; and, as a farther encouragement, he shall be paid one penny a day out of each man's wages, every day he is at work.

And be it further enacted, That when the prison-labourers shall amount to upwards of twenty, the county shall provide an under bailiff to assist the officer in taking care
of

of them, and pay him a yearly salary of fifty pounds.

And be it enacted, That all the money each man earns the first six months after his conviction, shall be retained in the officer's hands, as a security, if he should run away, to pay the expence of bringing him back to his duty, excepting three shillings a week, which must be paid to him for his maintenance; but if he does not run away, and behaves properly, all the surplus money he earns the first six months, above the said three shillings a week, shall be paid to him upon his releasement, at the end of the time he is to serve for.

And be it further enacted, That if any of the said prison-labourers shall run away, and be discovered by the mark in their foreheads, advertise-

vertisement, or any other means, strolling about the country, without a passport under the officer's hand, it shall be lawful for any one to take them up, and conduct them to their respective places of abode ; and as a reward for so doing, he shall be paid four-pence for each and every mile they convey each prisoner, and also one guinea, as an encouragement for taking him.

And be it also enacted, That when it is necessary for the officer to travel any distance from home, in order to procure work for his said labourers, he shall be paid five shillings per day for his travelling expences.

And be it enacted, That though a culprit, either through his own or friends abilities in fortune, may be able to maintain himself without work,
yet

yet he shall not be excused, but shall work along with the poorer sort, as a punishment for his former misconduct; and it shall be the duty of the officer to keep them in due order and subjection, and oblige them to attend divine service every sabbath day, and read this act of parliament to them once in every quarter of a year.

And be it further enacted, That the women culprits shall be governed by a woman officer, who shall be paid eighty pounds a year, and shall also be provided with a house, rent free, for her and her culprits to live and work in, at the county's expence; and be it also enacted, that the governesses shall be paid twenty shillings at the entrance of each culprit, which is to buy materials, such as the
women

women chuse to spin, whether wool, flax, or cotton, and when spun, sell the yarn to the best advantage, and pay the woman all it sells for above the first cost, for their maintenance, always reserving the twenty shillings, as a standing capital, to buy more with; and when the culprit has served the time condemned for, it shall be given her along with her discharge, if she behave well; if not, it shall be distributed at the discretion of the governess, among the remaining prisoners.

C H A P. XII.

*A few Hints, humbly offered for the
Perusal of the Legislature, relating
to a Dog Act, &c.*

THOUGH I am no great politician, yet I wish so well to the constitution of England, that, so far as I am capacitated, I would most willingly lend a hand, to point out any laws that might be of utility to its inhabitants.

And what more particularly encourages me to undertake the task, is, because the country from whence
my

my work takes it birth (I mean York-shire) happens to be represented by worthy, spirited, independent gentlemen, who have the interest of their country at heart, and have also abilities and industry enough, to excite and enforce any scheme, that may appear to be for their country's good.

I therefore flatter myself, that they will undertake the procuring of so many of these acts, as may be thought worthy their notice. And I farther flatter myself, that such of my readers as are impartial, will think with me, that a dog act would be of great utility to the public; especially after they have been told the immense sums it would save to the industrious part of mankind, and also the great revenue it would raise to the public funds, out of the pockets of none
but

but such as could well spare it; as any one who found himself oppressed, could ease himself by parting with the cause.

Secondly, it would lop off a great many useless animals; and such as are of benefit would be preserved, for their merit, and the owner's interest. Neither ought a poor man to keep a dog, if he be not able to maintain it; it is inhuman, to keep any dumb animal to starve, which many must, did they not eat the bread and butter of poor children, or turn out to worry sheep.

It is always allowed, that what will keep a dog, will keep a pig; and I think I need not say which would be found the most profitable to the poor man's family, at Christ-

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mas ;

mas ; a dog for his children to play with, or bacon to fill their bellies.

I may be asked, why, cannot a poor man see these follies himself ? I answer, no ; because fore-cast does not always get the better of folly in this, no more than in every other degree in life ; there is a natural tendernefs and indulgence, in every parent towards their children, as well as in ladies for their lap-dogs ; pardon the comparifon.

Thirdly, it will appear, that there will be, yearly, at leaft a million of money faved, that will center among the pooreft fort of individuals ; and alfo 250,000l. which will go to the public funds, out of the pockets of the abler fort.

In order to reduce this to fome fort of certainty, it may not be amifs to
make

make a computation, how many dogs may be in England, and (upon such an act passing) how many useful ones may be kept to pay tax, and how many of the reverse, destroyed for a saving. This cannot be done better, than by first making a computation, how many people are supposed to be in England.

In this, authors differ in opinion, as much as from eight to twelve.

Some writers compute eight, some nine, some ten, some eleven, and some twelve, millions; but if we may judge from appearances, and if there were nine millions a century ago, I apprehend there cannot be less than eleven now.

There is nothing that can give a better idea of the increase of people, than the multiplying of new houses;

neither is there any one object that attracts the eye of a traveller, or dwells upon his memory more, owing, perhaps, both to the largeness of the object, and to the taste of building in the present times.

Few men have travelled in England more than I have done, and I have made my remarks very minutely, on the revival of which, and comparing my journal with all the observations and computations I can make, I am clearly of opinion, that there is daily a great increase of people.

This may occur to any one who lives in any part of the kingdom; if he only takes notice of the many new houses that are daily building in every town and city, together with all the farm houses and gentlemen's seats,
that

that are starting up in the middle of every new inclosure, which are very rapidly increasing in all parts of England.

Neither are there any houses that stand long empty; being immediately tenanted.

Were not this the case, architects, or proprietors, would soon stop building; but it is the great demand, that makes them push forward that work with spirit.

All this shews, that, though a great number of people daily go abroad, yet we are greatly increasing. But, in order to come as near to the truth as possible, I will strike a medium, and suppose England and Wales to contain ten millions of souls.

Some will compute five, and others four people in a family; but, to avoid fractions,

fractions, we will allow five to a family.

This makes two millions of families; and I think we may justly compute one dog to each family; as there are more families that have two or three dogs in them, than what are without; not to speak of gentlemen that keep hounds, who have, perhaps, more dogs than people.

Therefore, I say, we may, almost with certainty, set down at least two millions of dogs in England.

The next question is, what each dog will take, in a year, to maintain him; which I think we may justly set down at twenty shillings; for if a gentleman sends a whelp into the country, to be reared, he never pays less than half a guinea or fifteen shillings, till he be half a year or three quarters

quarters old, and sometimes a guinea; except he send him to a tenant who is under an obligation to him, in this case he pays perhaps nothing, but then the consumption is no less, for the dog eats the same as if paid for.

As to gentlemen's hounds, greyhounds, pointers, and my lady's lap-dogs, they cost a great deal more.

We will suppose pug only to destroy one pound of meat in the day, reckoning bread and butter, tea, roast-beef, or what is stirring, and call that only three-pence, though ready dressed, and without bone, (because it would be very imprudent to give poor pug bones, to break his teeth.) Now three-pence per day, will be found to amount to four pounds eleven shillings and three-pence a year.

This,

This, to be sure, is nothing in a lady's pocket; no more is dirting or wearing her aprons, &c. any great matter, because she can mend them herself; which shews good housewifery.

But, though such things be not felt by people in affluence yet, be assured, it hurts the public in general.

The greater the consumption is, the higher is the price in the articles thereof; and a half-penny, or a farthing in a pound, in either meat or bread, is very sensibly felt by the lower sort of people.

If two millions of dogs consume annually, twenty shillings each, the sum amounts to two millions of money. Suppose an act of parliament to pass, that each dog should pay five shillings

shillings yearly, the sum would amount to five hundred thousand pounds a year.

But, upon such an act's taking place, we will suppose all the useless dogs destroyed, and the tax paid only for shepherds dogs, farmers house-dogs, and gentlemens dogs, which might perhaps reduce the number to one half, that is, one to every two families, then the sum raised, would be yearly, two hundred and fifty thousand pounds, to go into the public funds, which would all come from the pockets of such as would be able to pay it; and, as I observed before, if any one found himself oppressed by the tax, he could quickly ease himself, by dispatching the dog.

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The million of uselefs animals, that would be extinguished, fupposing each to deftroy twenty fhillings worth of victuals every year, would make a faving to the nation of one million of money yearly, and this too from thofe of the pooreft fort.

Though thefe calculations are only guefs-work, yet the probability is fo great on their favour, that it almoft amounts to a certainty.

Perhaps fome of my readers may imagine, that I have fome intereft in writing upon this fubject : but I will affure them I have not, fo far from it, that were fuch an act to take place, I fhould, in all probability, pay for two or three dogs, being very fond of thofe animals, fo far as they are ufe-ful; but I have no notion of keeping a parcel of yelping curs for no other

other use than to eat the poor's bread, bite horses heels, worry sheep, run mad, &c. And since we cannot defend ourselves, and rest securely at home, without a respectable standing army, and since that army cannot be raised nor paid without money, and money cannot be raised without taxes, let them be levied upon such superfluous articles, as reason clearly shews most for the public good.

Was this act to pass, and each dog to pay five shillings a year, there is no doubt but this would raise a fund of at least two hundred and fifty thousand pounds a year, which, though very considerable, is nothing in comparison of the great saving, which could not be less than one million of pounds sterling, per annum. Any

saving plan, inforced by an act of parliament, is indisputably as beneficial to the public, and reflects as much honour upon the member that promotes it, as one that brings in money to the public funds : and such a dog-act would be found to do both.

CHAP.

C H A P. XIII.

Shewing how advantageous it would be to the PUBLIC, was an Act passed for one standard of WEIGHTS and MEASURES to be observed through the Kingdom.

ONE would think, that an act for one standard of weights and measures through the kingdom, is of such a tendency, and speaks so plain for itself, that it could meet with no opposition; and that, let who would carry in a bill, it must pass the house nem. con. — and yet a thing of this sort has been moved for, and rejected, which

which must surprise every well meaning man.

Any one that speaks against this act, I should suspect of some foul play, in preying upon either buyer or seller, or perhaps both. Having acquired the knowledge and art of traffic between one country and another, where weight and measure vary ; this enables a man, by a prevaricating artful cunning, to deceive the public, whilst he vows and protests that the commodity cost him so much, and therefore he must have so much. This is a thing easily done, — as for instance,

A bushel of corn, in some parts of Cheshire and Lancashire, contains from thirty-eight to forty-two quarts; whereas in other parts it is Winchester measure only, so that the difference

rence in measure must leave a great profit to the dealer.

Butter is another article that varies much in weight, even in the same market. As none can bring less than sixteen ounces to a pound, so none ought to bring more; though some bring twenty or twenty-two, but in this they are as unfair and designing, as those that bring less, because they sell not only accordingly, but sometimes higher in proportion.

Such dealings lead people astray, with respect to the price at which things sell, and make the market always uncertain. Some people must be imposed upon; for it is natural for a seller to say, such a one sold for so much, and therefore, I will have so much; though perhaps there is one fourth or fifth

fifth of the money difference in the weight or measure.

In short, this upon the whole is so glaring a misfortune throughout the kingdom, that I wish an act was passed for one standard of weight and measure through England and Wales; and he that sells more, should be equally culpable with him, that sells less.

C H A P. XIV.

*On an Act for a general Use of Broad-
Wheeled Waggon, Two to roll with-
in Two.*

WHATEVER my farming readers may think of my scheme, in promoting the foregoing acts, I am sure I shall meet with the disapprobation of a great many of them in this.

Some sensible men, perhaps, here and there, may see the thing in its true light ; but I doubt they are thin strewed, for I know the major part will be against it.

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However,

However, be this as it will, I am so sanguine in my expectations, that I shall push it forwards with all the interest I have ; and, for my pains, I hope to have the pleasure of travelling in far better roads than ever were known before.

My opponents, perhaps, may be as blind in this affair, as they were formerly, when turnpikes were first introduced ; but it is possible to force them to their own interest against their wills.

As the law now stands, the usefulness of broad-wheel'd waggons is certainly indisputable, but it is only half doing the work ; their utility so far, may give us an idea of what might be expected from a general use of them ; but, it is just like setting two
horses

horses to pull contrary ways, though both want to have the load the same way ; because the narrow wheeled carriages cut the road in such a form, that in some places it is almost impossible for broad wheels to pass in it.

At first, when the act passed for broad wheeled carriages, it was thought too oppressive to oblige the farmers, all at once, to acquiesce with it by a general act, as the expence was looked upon to be too great for many to bear ; but, now the case is altered, a great many of the most sensible sort of them have acquiesced with it voluntarily, and some upon easy terms too, by making their former wag-gons or carts do, without any other alteration, than adding a set of fel-lies at each side of their former wheels,

with bolts to go through the three fellies, to bind them together.

The two additional fellies, being each three inches broad, and the old felley three inches, it completes the wheel so as to compose at nine inches. This is a very good way, and very often practised now-a-days, particularly when farmers want to go into their grounds, then they make broad wheels, to prevent cutting the sod: Some have them put on and taken off occasionally.

Now, since the most sensible farmers are adopting this method, and still would do it more, were they not prevented by bigotted silly fellows, persisting in drawing narrow-wheeled carriages; which cut up the road, and make it impossible for a broad-wheeled carriage to go upon it.

As

As nature has not given every man talents alike; and as it is hard for the industrious sensible man to suffer through his neighbour's folly and ignorance; it is no more than right, for the legislature, to enforce an act, to bring such stupidity into reason, for the public good.

Should any spirited member take this in hand, it would be not amiss to draw up a bill, for every sort of four-wheeled carriages to roll two within two. The act to run thus :

That every waggon and cart wheel should be nine inches broad ; that the fore-wheels of the waggon should roll four feet nine inches wide within the rim or felly ; and the hind wheels roll four feet six inches wide from outside to outside of the rim.

This

This would level the road eighteen inches at each side; and the little ridge of three inches would be no ways prejudicial, as its narrowness would not permit it to stand high, or resist the wheel of any carriage pressing it down, and consequently the roads would be all like a bowling green for levelness. The more carriages of this sort that should come upon any road, the better it would be.

The wheels of all coaches, post-chaises, &c. should be four inches broad, and roll two within two, leaving an inch space between the rollers. Upon these conditions, every carriage to draw with as many horses as they please.

This would put an end to all informations, weighings, and such like
troublesome

troublesome business, which are the cause of much quirking, prevaricating, and perjury.

In this case, every cross country road must be good, because every machine would act as a roller to mend them. The very horses feeding, when broke into the surface, would be closed and levelled again, by the rollers immediately following.

I wish every one had the same trials, and could see it in the same light that I do, we should then have good roads, through every part of the kingdom, without any other expence; than that of a drain at each side, to take away the water.

The foregoing chapters relating to the said acts, are, I apprehend, of
great

great moment to the public; therefore I humbly hope they will be perused by the legislature, and do not despair of seeing them pass into the several laws, with such alterations or deductions as the legislature may think proper, for the public welfare.

C H A P.

C H A P XV.

*Some Remarks upon the GAME-LAWS,
and the great Advantages that
would arise, from GAME it made a
private Property.*

THE game-laws, as they now stand, are replete with many absurdities. They are made inlets to perjury, idleness, drunkenness, and thievery. Neither do they answer the end for which they were enacted, that of preserving the game. In short, they have the contrary effect: for, so long as game sells so much higher than other provisions, so long

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will

will a poacher think it worth his while to lose his rest at night, and run all hazards to come at it.

On the other hand, were game made a private property, it would shortly become as plentiful as barn-door fowl.

What I mean by private property, is, that every one, who either rents or holds any quantity of land in his own hands, should be intitled to all the game which he could take or keep thereon; which should be as much his own property, as his tame stock, and also subject to the same laws of felony, if stolen.

This would put a final stop to poaching, as it would be every landholder's interest to watch his wild, as well as his tame stock.

It

It would also be his interest to feed, cherish, and use them mildly, in order to keep them upon his lands; as by shooting, hunting, and the like rough usage, he would frighten or chase them from his own, to his neighbour's land, and by that means lose his property. For game would naturally remain the longest where it would be the least disturbed.

And it would be in this, as in all other cases; when a man wants to raise a stock, he cherishes the breed, till it multiplies so far as to answer his purpose. And as wild-fowl feed upon worms, seeds, ants, and the like, they would be kept at a trifling, or no expence; consequently the landholder's interest would be, to encourage and raise as many as he could. Neither would he suffer his

property to be invaded by any unlawful means; as the law would secure to him this stock, as well as any other of his goods or chattles.

Though this law would secure the property to the tenant, yet it should not deprive the landlord of his pleasure; for he should have full power to hunt and shoot at all proper seasons of the year, as in the present case. Suppose the preamble of an act of parliament was to run nearly to the following words:

Whereas it has been found by experience, that the game-laws, as they now stand, are attended with many inconveniences, and also do not answer the end proposed, in preserving game; therefore, be it enacted, &c. that all such laws which are now in force be made null and void, &c. and
and

and be it enacted, that from and after the day of all the said game-laws are repealed, made void, and of no effect.

And be it farther enacted, that, from and after the—day of—game, such as hares, partridges, wild ducks, pheasants, &c. shall become the private property of each land holder, so long as it remains on his ground. That it shall be lawful to take, kill, and dispose of it, as he thinks proper; as in cases of his other goods and chattles; and it shall also be secured to him from theft or other trespasses, by the same laws which secure his other property.

Nevertheless, it shall be lawful for the landlord, at all seasonable times of the year, &c. (here to mention at what times) to hawk, hunt, shoot

shoot, kill, and take away such sorts of game, but not to sell it, as are particularly specified in the act.

That it shall be lawful for every sportsman, landholder, &c. to pursue a hare with hounds, or grey hounds, &c. to her death, let it happen upon whose premises it may.

Be it farther enacted, that it shall be lawful, if one shoot, and that the game fall upon his neighbour's ground, to go and take it up, but not to follow the game so as to shoot, or by any other means to kill game upon his neighbour's premises, &c.

I cannot tell what my reader may think of such an act; but I am of opinion, that, were it to take place, we should have wild fowl as plentiful as tame; because by nature they feed upon what is of no use to tame fowl;
therefore

therefore it would be the farmer's interest to encourage their breed, by all the gentle methods he could use; which in time would make them tame and tractable.

Neither would a landlord ever be at a loss for a day's diversion, the game would become so plentiful.

In short, were this act to take place, I should not wonder to see cottagers who hold perhaps no more than three or four acres of land, have pheasants and partridges come about their doors like chickens, by such gentle usage. As their interest would direct them to it.

C H A P. XVI.

Upon limiting the Size of FARMS.

IF an act of Parliament was to pass, in order to put a stop to the monopolizing of land, and to limit the largest farms to four hundred acres each, it would doubtless have a great tendency towards making improvements flourish, and plenty abound through the kingdom.

It would then be in the power of every one, to make the most of his ground; no corner of it could escape his eye, and lie barren. He would
impro v

improve every part, and fill it with one profitable crop or other.

It is the nature of man in all stations of life, to be aspiring, and very often to grasp at what he is not well able to manage.

But in no case is the misfortune more sensibly felt, both by the party concerned, and by the public in general, than when a farmer holds too much land.

But suppose the farmer can struggle through, and pay the rent; yet the public is still a loser; as the earth does not produce half the increase it would do, were it managed to the height of perfection.

They are such laws as these, which would lay the foundation for plenty; and only such that can make the people happy and honest.

Y

May

May we not compare a kingdom to a family? Is it not the first care of a master to provide bread for his family? If he neglects this, can he expect that his servants will be honest and industrious?

Are not the King, and the legislature the fathers of the people? Are they not impowered to enact such laws as may appear to them to be most for the public good? Are there any that ought to draw their attention, before such as would satisfy the first law of nature? Hunger will break through stone walls.

What good has accrued from all the laws which ever have been enacted, to prevent forestalling? Do they satisfy the people's craving appetite with bread; or make it one jot cheaper? Do they add one peck of corn to the mill,

or

or tend towards making one blade of corn more to grow.

It is inconsistent with reason they should. In short, were these laws put in force, they would have the contrary effect; because they would cramp trade, which, like water, is the best leveller.

What would London and all our great sea-ports do, were it not for the corn-factors, wholesale butchers, drovers, or dealers in cattle, &c. It is such as these that keep an equality in prices throughout the kingdom. They buy where such commodities are plenty, and sell where they are scarce. Is it to be supposed that a farmer or grazier, who has perhaps no more than twenty quarters of corn, or three or four fat cattle to sell, and who lives a hundred miles from Lon-

don, could go there to sell them? And suppose he did; must he not lay a greater price upon them, to answer such extraordinary expences? And would not this most sensibly affect the lower class of people?

The merchant's warehouse may justly be called a magazine for the poor, where they can apply for such necessaries as they stand in need of. Neither have the poor cash or means to provide long before such things are wanted.

It is the merchant's interest to lay in his commodities in the time of plenty, and to sell out in time of scarcity. Is not this a natural policy, that will keep things most upon an equality? Was not this the case with Joseph? He filled his stores in the time of plenty, and sold when they grew scarce,

scarce, for he did not give his provisions away, any more than our merchants do.

Most of the commodities or necessities for life are perishable, therefore under a necessity of being disposed of before they spoil. Should any one be silly or indiscreet enough to keep them too long, he is punished by his own folly; but this very seldom happens.

The merchant with a capital, and warehouse proper for the occasion, is a ready market for the farmer to fly to, for the sale of his crops. Had he not such a resource, he would be deterred from sowing, which would be the first step towards a famine.

These are all consequences which must naturally happen, were the acts to prevent forestalling put in force.

For

For every person that buys before the goods are brought to market, is in reality a forestaller, as the law now stands.

I remember reading many hints in the news-papers, relating to fat cattle being returned from the markets in London to the country, unfold ; and at the same time wishing for such laws as would enforce them to be fold, and not returned.

Certainly such authors judge as superficially of those matters, as the old-fashioned farmer, who for a year or two past, has stuffed the papers with his silly arguments, wherein he takes upon himself to prove to the public, that it was the inclosing of commons, together with turnip-husbandry, which was the cause of dearth of provisions.

In

In one of his letters, about Martinmas, he thanked providence for a *miss crop* of turnips. For, says he, as this crop has failed, farmers are obliged to bring their sheep and cattle to market; which has lowered butchers meat greatly. But perhaps, he is one of the tribe of sleepers, which only want food one half of the year; the other, they live in a state of insensibility without it. His short-sighted understanding could not find out what would be the consequence; that the more they killed in autumn, the fewer remained for slaughter in the spring; that we cannot both eat our cake, and have it, as the saying is.

When winter - food falls short, (of which turnips are the best) the cattle must walk to market with their
bones

bones half loaded with flesh ; consequently the poor must go with half a belly full.

The old fashioned farmer's reasoning upon the inclosing of commons, is much the same ; for he does not see the many thousand acres in the kingdom, which in their wild state will not keep a rabbit on an acre ; whereas, if inclosed and improved, they might be made to keep four or five sheep per acre. And certainly the more live stock there is bred in the kingdom, the greater chance we have for plenty ; because in the end, they must come to the butcher, except turnips and other winter food fail. Then, indeed, the cattle may die for want, and the poor may sew up their mouths.

It

It is past a contradiction, that the more waste barren land there is inclosed and improved, the more stock and corn it will raise. All which tends to plenty; because every article that keeps nature alive, springs from the earth; consequently it ought to be our first care to make her produce abundance.

But to return to the farmers, salefmen, and butchers; (these are represented as unmerciful men by authors in the news-papers, who want some laws to make them kill the cattle when brought to market, whether it can be consumed or not). I humbly conceive such laws would be very pernicious, and put a stop to the balance of trade, which, instead of going on smooth and even, would be continually upon a flux and re-

Z

flux

flux. It would be like a weigh-pole, which children ride upon, always up and down, rising and falling; because some weeks there would be twice as much cattle in the market as is necessary for the inhabitants to consume; therefore the meat would be sold very low, or thrown away, and perhaps both.

The next market-day, there might not be half the quantity of cattle as was wanted, consequently the meat would be double the price. In this case the rich could buy, but the poor might starve.

Experience shews to the butchers, not only in London, but all over England, how much meat each market will take off.

Each one knows what he killed last week, which was perhaps as much,
or

or more than he could sell ; therefore he will kill no more this week, lest it should lie on his hands.

Before such laws should take place, it would be necessary that the farmers should be indued with the spirit of prophecy or fore-knowledge ; that he in the north might know on what day he in the south, at several hundred miles distance, would send his cattle to the market, lest they should clash with each other, and over stock it.

In short, I am of opinion, that it is as necessary to send cattle out of the market, when over-stocked, as to bring them to it when scarce ; consequently, the drawing farms near London are very useful, and may be considered as a sort of make-weight,

ready to throw into the rising scale, as it were, to keep a balance.

There is another set of people, who exclaim against farmers for withholding their cattle from the market; as if that contributed to the dearth of provisions.

But these notions, like the rest, are ill grounded. Every one that judges of things rightly, must know, that it is not the husbandman's interest to keep back from market his cattle, after they are once fat; for when they come to the height of perfection, all the food they eat is thrown away; and the interest of the money is sinking. It is the interest of every one in trade, to make as quick a return, as possible; therefore it is plain that it is the graziers interest

terest to send his cattle to market as soon as they are fat.

And on the other hand, the public can lose nothing by the cattle being kept away from market, till they are fat; because every pound they gain in weight, is adding to the public fund of plenty; the more pounds a bullock gains in weight, whilst he stays from the market, the more bellies he will fill when he arrives there.

Upon the whole, it is bad policy to cramp trade in any branch, much more in that which concerns the cravings of nature.

The most prudent step would be, to lay a foundation for plenty, and there is no doubt but that nature will produce enough to satisfy her dependants. As to things being dear, it is a natural cause, which arises from
money

money being more plentiful, as before hinted; and not from any real want, or decrease of provisions.

It is not improbable but that in process of time, wheat may rise to five shillings a peck, by gradual steps, for the same reason as it has rose from one penny to sixteen-pence a peck; and every other commodity in proportion.

C H A P.

C H A P. XII.

On numbering People, &c. in England.

THERE is no doubt but it would be very satisfactory both to the legislature and the public in general, could it be ascertained how many people, both Protestants and Romans, as also acres in grafs, tillage, and common, and dogs were in England; as by being acquainted in these particulars, rational and regular plans might be proceeded upon, for enacting constitutional laws that scarce could err.

Each

Each church-warden should also send an account how many acres of commons there was in each parish by computation, if it had not been measured, as there is a general computation made by the parishioners, of what common or waste land belongs to them, throughout England.

And suppose it could not be ascertained this way, to the satisfaction of the legislature, the matter might easily be settled to a certainty, by ordering the parish officers to have them measured, and pay the surveyor out of the parish rates.

A T A B L E

S C H E M E S. 177

A TABLE to be put into the News-papers, as a Copy for the Parish Officers to go by, and to number every Article as set forth therein, when they go to gather the Land Tax or Window Money.

The Names of each Family in the Parish of —	Number of Pro- testants.	Number of Ro- mans.	Number of tilled Acres	Num. of Acres of Grass-land.	Number of A- cres in all.	Number of Dogs.	Yearly Rent of each Farm.
							£. s.
John Simple	9	2	231	355	586	3	253:10
Sir Th. Bart.	15	3	260	621	881	51	432:5
Francis, Esq;	12	0	25	67	92	15	72:2
William	6	0	000	000	000	2	2:5
Rev. Mr.	10	0	20	55	75	5	32:3
Lord	0	32	101	232	333	54	163:9
Earl of	36	3	54	225	279	48	113:2
John	5	0	5	6	11	3	94:5
							7:8
	93	40	696	1161	2177	181	1170:8

A a

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